



McDonald, Kelly <kmcdonald@dcrsd.org>

DCRSD Update 02.13.2021

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Sat, Feb 13, 2021 at 3:19 PM

To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

All,

I am writing to share a number of items for your review.

It is with sincerity that I wish all Dudley-Charlton families a wonderful vacation next week. What is essential is for everyone to continue with all of the mitigating strategies that work. The most decisive action that anyone can take, aside from practicing mitigating strategies, is to self-identify the symptoms associated COVID and take them seriously. While the DCRSD has experienced declining case numbers, as has our communities, the best strategy is for anyone to stay home if they are sick and self-monitor symptoms. Additionally, communicating with our school nurses is critical too. Even though it is a vacation week, some school nurses may be available and if not, please email our COVID Coordinator [Ms. Anne Marie DeMorris](#).

As previously mentioned, we have had our lowest number of cases this past week to include three new cases which required no contact tracing. The trend has indicated that we are in a far better place than we have been in for the past several months. To maintain this trajectory, we need everyone to continue to do their part.

With school vacation, we know this typically means travel. We still remain under the [Massachusetts Travel Order](#) and are respectfully asking families to plan appropriately to meet the requirements of the travel order to keep COVID out of our schools.

The DCRSD's application to be an Authorized School for participation in the DESE Pooled Testing Program was approved. We are in the beginning stages of planning and will have more information in the coming week. Our COVID Coordinator, Ms. Anne Marie DeMorris will coordinate this program for the DCRSD.

We have asked all families to complete the [DCRSD Transportation Survey](#) in preparation for a transition to more in-person learning this coming March 15, 2021. New transportation guidelines [attached] have been released by our state to include lifting capacity restrictions and physical distancing restrictions for transporting elementary students and middle and high school students with the exception of 2 to a seat for middle and high school students. The aforementioned, in no way, represents the entire document, but does provide the more salient changes to our transportation plan. This survey continues to be extremely important for planning purposes so we continue to ask families to complete the survey by Friday, February 19, 2021. The survey will provide the data we need to establish efficient bus routes and permit us the ability to institute the greatest physical distance between students we can based on ridership. The data will help us balance busses and apply the greatest physical distance we can for our student riders. After reviewing the new transportation guidelines, if you would like to adjust your survey entry please email [Mr. Richard Mathieu](#) directly to communicate your changes.

Additionally, the DCRSD has asked families to complete an [Indication of Intent Survey](#) to provide a commitment to a learning model for the remainder of the school year so that we can appropriately plan for pending transitions. Throughout this school year, we have worked extremely hard to support choice and movement between models. This movement creates incredible challenges in assigned classes and student schedules, stability in staffing and ensuring we meet all student needs. We ask families to commit to our hybrid learning model as we transition to more in-person learning on March 15th and then again on May 3rd or the full remote learning model for the rest of this school year. We want to plan appropriately with very little disruption to assigned staff and students, therefore, we ask you to complete the survey for each student in your family or household by Friday, February 19, 2021. If you have a question or want to make a change, please feel free to contact [Dr. Brian Ackerman](#).

We appreciate your efforts to complete these surveys as they aid in our efforts to establish security in knowing what will occur with increased in-person learning.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools

 **DESE Transportation Guidance vF - Updated 2-11.pdf**
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